

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the status of the claims as indicated below:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (new) An apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting, comprising:

two construction element engaging components;

a fastener for connecting said two construction element engaging components to one another, said fastener comprising a bolt extending between said two construction element engaging components and a nut for tightening on said bolt rigidly connecting said two construction element engaging components with a gap therebetween;

a body portion for at least partially covering said nut for preventing access thereto by an unfastening tool, said body portion extending from said nut to a position alongside said bolt within said gap; and,

locking means movable relative to said body portion between a first position, wherein said apparatus is removable from said construction fitting, and a second position wherein said apparatus is prevented from being removed from said construction fitting, said locking means extending, in said second position, from said body portion in a direction toward said bolt with said gap.

12. (new) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said locking means is movable within

a bore in said body portion.

13. (new) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said locking means is a screw-threaded element.

14. (new) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said locking means is a pin lockable to said body portion in said second position.

15. (new) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said locking means is accessible, and movement is effected, via a shaped tool.

16. (new) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 15, wherein said locking means and said shaped tool have respective key and keyhole elements engagable for moving said locking means from said second position to said first position.

17. (new) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said body portion surrounds, in use, substantially all otherwise exposed surfaces of said nut of said construction fitting, said body portion including a bore through which a free end of said bolt extends.

18. (new) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said body portion and said locking means are made of metal.